In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete paragraph [0029] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0029] FIG. 2 is the DNA sequence **and translation product (SEQ ID NOS 10-11)** for human LOX-1.

Please delete paragraph [0062] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0062] The methods disclosed in the above documents can be used to generate a plurality of agents capable of binding LOX-1. These agents then can be screened as described herein by reacting them with a plurality of signal moieties and optional linking ligands, and tested to assess their efficacy in binding both the LOX-1 polypeptide and the signal moieties. Particularly preferred binding moieties A include peptides selected from the group consisting of LSXPP (X=I, R)**(SEQ ID NO: 1)**, TPP, LTPAXA (X=T, R) **(SEQ ID NO: 2)**, MTTPPLT **(SEQ ID NO: 3)**, LTRPX (X=Y, L) **(SEQ ID NO: 4)**, MTAXPI (X=P, R) **(SEQ ID NO: 5)**, MQP, and mixtures, fragments, fusion peptides, derivatives, variants, and homologues thereof.

Please delete paragraph [0064] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0064] For the peptidic ligands of embodiments of the invention, a fluorescent dye preferably is attached to the N-terminus of the peptide via a flexible linker, such as the amino acid sequence KKGG (K=Lysine, G=Glycine) **(SEQ ID NO: 6)**. In the event that the N-terminus is linked to a signaling moiety with no further functional ends for dye attachment, the dye also can be attached via the side-chain amine of a K residue incorporated into the sequence (e.g. in the linker).

Please delete paragraph [0080] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0080] Using the guidelines provided herein and the description immediately above, a person having ordinary skill in the art is capable of synthesizing any group A, which is a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence that binds to LOX-1, and more preferably is selected from the group consisting of LSXPP (X=I, R)**(SEQ ID NO: 1)**, TPP, LTPAXA (X=T, R) **(SEQ ID NO: 2)**, MTTPPLT **(SEQ ID NO: 3)**, LTRPX (X=Y, L) **(SEQ ID NO: 4)**, MTAXPI (X=P, R) **(SEQ ID NO: 5)**, MQP, and mixtures, fragments, fusion peptides, derivatives, variants, and homologues thereof. Upon synthesizing the group A peptide, the peptide then is conjugated either directly to a signal moiety, or to the signal moiety via a linking group.

Please delete paragraph [0086] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0086] L is simply any moiety which connects the signal moiety S to the peptidic binding moiety A. In the case of ^{18}F or 11C a linker may not be necessary; the radioisotope can be directly attached to A via a covalent bond. In many cases it is preferred to include L in order to attach S to A. That is, n in the equation for the molecule of the invention is 1. Preferred linking agents include polypeptides, proteins, and small organic moieties. For example, lysine-glycine analogs, derivatives and variants can be used, conventional chelators such as cyclohexyl alanine, DTPA, 1,4,7-triaza-cyclononane-N,N',N"-triacetic acid (NOTA), p-bromoacetamido-benyl-tetraethylaminetetraacetic acid (TETA), 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecanetetraacetic acid (DOTA), and combinations thereof. A preferred linking agent could be a lysine-glycine derivative such as KKGG **(SEQ ID NO: 6).**

Please delete paragraph [0095] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0095] A peptide was conjugated with fluorescein (FI-KKGG-FQTPPQL)**(SEQ ID NO: 7)** and was shown to bind to human endothelial coronary artery cells (HCAECs) which are known in the literature to express LOX-1. The amino acid sequence of human LOX-1 is shown in Figure 2. An image of HCAECs grown in glass slides treated with this peptide obtained using a fluorescent confocal microsope is shown in Figure 1; the fluorescent image (shows fluorescently tagged peptide as bright green) is overlaid with the transmitted light

image (shows outline of cells). The example reveals that the peptide above was localized on the cells. The experimental conditions for imaging the peptide-labeled HCAECs are described previously.

Please delete paragraph [0096] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0096] A solution of polyclonal antibody (IgG) was produced by Invitrogen Corporation, (Carlsbad, CA) against the sequence Arg-Gly-Ala-Val-Tyr-Ala-Glu-Asn-Cys-Ile **(SEQ ID NO: 8)** at a concentration of 1.5 mg/mL. Three aliquots containing 250 μg (166 μL) each were transferred to1.5 mL Eppendorf tubes and maintained at 0°C. The solutions were treated with $NaHCO_3$ (1M, 20 μL) and gently inverted. In a separate tube, a solution of 5-carboxyfluorescein-N-hydroxysuccinate ester in DMF (1 mg/mL) was prepared. The antibody solutions were treated with 5, 20 or 50 equivalents of the fluorescein/DMF solutions (3.95, 15.8 and 39 μL respectively). The highest concentration of DMF was 17%. The tubes were allowed to warm to room temperature over 1 hour and gently inverted every 15 minutes to assure mixing. During this time PD-10 columns were equilibrated with PBS and eluted until the sorbent bed was exposed.

Please delete paragraph [0097] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0097] The entire reaction mixtures were transferred to the columns and eluted with PBS. The fast moving yellow band was clearly visible and was collected in glass scintillation tubes (approximate eluted volume 3 mL). The purified labeled antibody samples were then evaluated using a Dot Blot technique against the LOX-1 antigen (Arg-Gly-Ala-Val-Tyr-Ala-Glu-Asn-Cys-Ile)**(SEQ ID NO: 8)**.

Please delete paragraph [00100] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[00100] A sequence-scrambled version of the peptide described in Example 1 above was synthesized and conjugated with fluorescein in a similar manner as that described above. The scrambled sequence bound to fluorescein was Fl-KGKG-QPLFTPQ **(SEQ ID**

NO: 9). This comparative peptide was contacted with HCAEC's and imaged in the same manner as described in Example 1 above. The results are shown in Figure 5. As can be seen from Figure 5, the sequence-scrambled version of the peptide had a weaker binding affinity for the HCAEC cells.